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using two or more contour intervals on the same map, which is necessarily fatal to relief expression. On very large scale maps, he says, contours are too far apart to express hill-shading. That of course is only true if the contour interval is not diminished proportionally. These points are not meant as criticism for the author is abandoning a somewhat narrow British view in the matter. His book is admirable, clear and surely useful.

MARK JEFFERSON.

**Contours and Maps: Explained and Illustrated.** By Frederick Morrow. 116 pp. Maps, diagrams. Meiklejohn & Son, London, 1913. 1s. 6d. 7½ x 5.

This little book is a manual of instruction in passing English geography examinations, and it is admirably adapted to that end for readers of very little preparation.

The oroscopic maps that are offered as examples of expressive contouring have their white and dark contours so wide as inevitably to suggest models cut out of cardboard with distinct cliffs at each contour, much inferior to good fine-line contours.

But the greatest interest of the book to an American student of geography is the point of view, an utterly strange one to us. Not geography, not maps, nor even British contour maps are the subject of the book, but such aspects of British contour maps as have seemed important to British examiners. No such book could be printed in America. Our nearest equivalent is the unpublished instruction of some private tutors who get men of doubtful mentality through university examinations. Such an attitude is unfortunate for British geographical instruction, for the teacher who discovers that the British contouring is inferior to that executed by others is forbidden by the examination system to teach the better, but must stick to the worse. There will be no inspiration in his teaching. Moreover there is little chance of getting more expressive contouring into the Ordnance Survey maps—anything even remotely approaching the work of Matthes in this country—as long as examinations are able to exercise this inbreeding effect on methods.

MARK JEFFERSON.

**Didaktik der Himmelskunde und der Astronomischen Geographie.**

Mit Beiträgen von W. Foerster, K. Haas, M. Koppe, S. Oppenheim, A. Schülke. Verfasst von Dr. Alois Höfler. xii and 414 pp. Ills. B. G. Teubner, Leipzig, 1913. Mk. 11. 10 x 6½.

The author shows how to overcome the traditional verbalism which has made the teaching of mathematical geography and astronomy such a thankless task in the lower and higher schools. He discusses the causes and effects of the neglect of this study and gives directions how to make the teaching of it real and full of interest for pupils of all ages, how to lead them to an actual understanding of astronomic facts and laws based on observation, instead of learning by heart paragraphs from textbooks. That even textbooks cannot always be relied on he demonstrates by an amazingly large collection of erroneous statements quoted from such books. Although based on the conditions in Austrian schools, the message of the book is not bounded by political lines. The defects of astronomical instruction which are here criticized are liable to be felt by the conscientious teacher of the subject in every country, and many will find in it advice and inspiration for their work, outlines of practical plans of study, suggestions for practical observation for the making of simple apparatus where means are limited, etc. The text is illustrated by many diagrams and two plates.

M. K. GENTHE.

#### GENERAL

**A Pilgrim's Scrip.** By R. Campbell Thompson. xii and 345 pp. Map, illus., index. John Lane Co., New York, 1915. \$3.50. 9 x 6.

The diary of a savant of the spade and pick, engaged in excavating archaeological finds, and in transcribing cuneiform inscriptions for the British Museum. In a droll, whimsical style, abounding in little-used words and terms,

he describes his everyday experiences, in the course of his association with native workmen, doing his digging work, with oriental guides and headmen, and with other experts of different nationalities, engaged in similar pursuits. A typical example of his very unusual and very peculiar style may be seen in the following passage. "This very name *Mosul* has given title to a weaver's stuff, for among strange word-pedigrees *muslin* holds high rank, that dominies may muse on its descent. For, as saith the learned Marco Polo, it was first manufactured here, inheriting the name *Mussolino* or *Mousseline*; and yet *Mosul* is but the Arabic *Mawsil*, which the Arabs, in their simpleness, think to mean 'the place of arrival,' not wotting that Xenophon had known the name *Mespilea*, long before Arabic had ousted its cousin languages. But this place *Mespilea*, when Xenophon speaks of it, was already a waste; perhaps the inhabitants of its departed glories told him in their Assyrian tongue that *Mushpalu* meant a 'low-lying spot.' But alack! the weaving of these cloths has ceased, driven out by the Joseph-coloured plagues of Manchester."

The finest piece of writing in the diary is the description of Rawlinson's deciphering of the inscription of the Persian King Darius at Behistun. The writer holds a strong brief for the manhood and valor of the ancient Persians against the charges of effeminacy and cowardice, brought against them by their Greek foes, and inculcated by the average, classical teacher in his lessons to the average schoolboy. An appended "envoy" forms a sort of preposterous preface to the work.

DAVID H. BUEL.

## OTHER BOOKS RECEIVED

*These notes do not preclude more extended reference later*

### NORTH AMERICA.

A HISTORY OF THE WESTERN BOUNDARY OF THE LOUISIANA PURCHASE, 1819-1841. By Thomas M. Marshall. 266 pp. Maps, index. *Univ. of California Public. in History*, Vol. 2. Berkeley, 1914.

THE PLEISTOCENE DEPOSITS IN WARREN COUNTY, IOWA. A dissertation submitted to the faculty of the Ogden Graduate School of Science, Dept. of Geology (Univ. of Chicago). By John L. Tilton. 43 pp. Ills. Univ. of Chicago Press, Chicago, Ill., 1911. 50 cents. 9½ x 6½.

IMPERIAL YEAR BOOK FOR THE DOMINION OF CANADA, 1914-15. Edited by A. E. Southall. 572 pp. Ills., index. John Lovell & Son, Montreal, 1914. \$1.50. 9 x 6½.

THE UNEXPLOITED WEST. A compilation of all of the authentic information available at the present time as to the natural resources of the unexploited regions of Northern Canada. By Major E. J. Chambers. xv and 361 pp. Railway Lands Branch, Dept. of the Interior, Ottawa, 1914. 10 x 6½.

THE REAL MEXICO. A Study on the Spot. By H. Hamilton Fyfe. viii and 246 pp. Map. McBride, Nast & Co., New York, 1914. \$1.25. 7½ x 5.

### SOUTH AMERICA

THE ARGENTINE YEAR Book 1914. To which is added chapters on the Republics of Uruguay and Paraguay. xxxi and 490 pp. R. Grant & Co. Buenos Aires, 1914. \$3. 8½ x 6.

THE ENGLISH ADDRESS Book of British and North American Residents, Business Houses, Institutions, etc., Argentine Republic. 9th edit. 1914. 434 pp. R. Grant & Co., Buenos Aires, 1914. \$1. 8½ x 6½.

BRAZIL-ALBUM. Resurreições litterarias e artisticas. Pelo Dr. Pires de Almeida. O Brazil atravez dos tempos; sua natureza atravez da arte. Fase. 1. 73 pp. Ills. Biblioteca Nacional, Rio de Janeiro, 1908. 11 x 15½.